OIPE JC731
AUG 25 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0485

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 10/681,570

Confirmation No.: 6819

Filed: October 8, 2003

For: TONG ASSEMBLY

§ Group Art Unit: 3723

§ Examiner: Hadi Shakeri

§ Customer No. 36735

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 23 Aug 05.

William B. Patterson — Typed Name
Signature
34,102 — Reg. No. if applicable
(713)623-4844 — Telephone Number

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 23, 2005

In response to the Office Action dated May 23, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 23, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0485/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Specifications begin on page 2 of this paper. **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper. **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 8 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.